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## **Statement by Congressman Istook about cutting non-defense funding from the Emergency Military funding bill**

Oklahoma City, OK - Congressman Ernest Istook voted today to strip out \$19-billion in hurricane relief from a supplemental appropriations bill that funds U.S. military operations in the MidEast.

"Our troops deserve whole-hearted support," Istook said, "but let's not mix that money with Hurricane Katrina. We already have billions in unspent disaster relief, and too much mismanagement. Our leadership has used war spending to leverage more Katrina money, and I disagree with them. Let each issue stand on its merits."

The effort to separate the two issues failed on a 89-to-332 vote.

"I'm voting to support our troops, and provide the money for the war against terrorism, so I'm voting for the bill on final passage. But it's wrong to package these together, so that I can't vote to support the troops unless I also vote to give more Katrina relief."